

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 02853 201448Z

71

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 COME-00 AGR-20 TRSE-00 OMB-01

STR-08 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /067 W

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R 201007Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0787

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 2853

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR

SUBJ: SUGAR QUOTA HEARINGS

REF: A. STATE 028976

B. BANGKOK 2206

C. BANGKOK A-385

1. RTG OFFICIALS HAVE ASKED EMBASSY FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING AN INCREASE IN ITS US SUGAR QUOTA. SAME POINT MADE WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY INGERSOLL DURING RECENT VISIT.

2. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THAILAND MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS NORMALLY SET FORTH BY THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE WHEN DETERMINING COUNTRIES THAT SHOULD BE GIVEN INCREASES IN SUGAR QUOTAS. MOST IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IN EMBASSY'S VIEW IS THAT THAILAND IMPORTED MORE THAN 60 MILLION DOLLARS OF US AGRICULTURE COMMODITIES IN CY 1973 WHILE THE US IMPORTED ONLY ABOUT 30 MILLION DOLLARS OF THAI AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

3. SMALL FARMERS ACCOUNT ENTIRELY FOR PRODUCTION OF SUGAR CANE IN THAILAND. HOLDINGS AVERAGE 10-25 ACRES. CONSEQUENTLY RELATIVELY LARGE NUMBER OF FARM FAMILIES

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 02853 201448Z

WITH LOW AVERAGE INCOME BENEFIT DIRECTLY WHENEVER PRICES

ARE STABLED AND AT HIGHER LEVEL AS THEY NORMALLY ARE
IN US IN RELATION TO WORLD MARKET.

4. THAILAND IS ONE OF THE FEW COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD THAT
IS INCREASING SUGAR PRODUCTION. SIX NEW SUGAR MILLS OF
APPROXIMATELY 8,000 M.T. CANE/DAY CAPACITY EACH HAVE
OPENED IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS. THIRTEEN ADDITIONAL SUGAR
MILLS ARE ALREADY UNDER CONSTRUCTION, OR CONSTRUCTION ON
THEM WILL BE STARTED WITHIN THE NEXT TWO YEARS. ALL THESE
MILLS SHOULD BE IN OPERATION BY 1977 OR 1978, AND BY THAT
TIME THAILAND'S ANNUAL PRODUCTION CAPACITY WILL BE APPROX-
IMATELY 1.5 MILLION TONS OF RAW SUGAR VERSUS JUST UNDER
ONE MILLION TONS AT PRESENT.

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Message Attributes

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